

What is Claimed is:

1. A portable hand dryer comprising:

(a) a housing having an upper end, a lower end, a rear wall, an air inlet opening and a downwardly directed air outlet opening;

(b) an electric air blower disposed within the housing, the air blower having an air inlet side and an air discharge side; and

(c) air passageways disposed within the housing connecting the air inlet side of the air blower to the air inlet opening of the housing and connecting the air discharge side of the air blower to the air outlet opening of the housing;

wherein power for the electric air blower is provided via a male plug having at least two prongs, the male plug being attached to, and projecting outwardly from, the rear wall of the housing, the male plug being sized and dimensioned to plug into a standard household electrical power receptacle;

wherein the portable hand dryer weighs less than about 16 ounces; and

wherein the housing is adapted to be solely supported from a standard pair of vertically arranged 3-way household electrical outlets, including an upper outlet and a lower outlet, both the upper outlet and the lower outlet comprising a pair of current conducting female connectors and a single female ground connector, the housing being capable of being solely supported from the pair of 3-way outlets by (i) the frictional and mechanical forces existing between the two current conducting female connectors of the upper outlet and the male plug and (ii) the frictional forces between the female ground connector of the lower outlet and a distal prong attached to, and projecting outwardly from, the rearward wall of the housing.

2. The portable hand dryer of claim 1 further comprising an electric heater disposed within the housing for heating air within the air passageways.

3. The portable hand dryer of claim 1 wherein the portable hand dryer comprises no air heater.

4. The portable hand dryer of claim 1 wherein the male plug has three prongs, a pair of current carrying prongs and a ground connector prong.

5. The portable hand dryer of claim 1 wherein the distal prong is the ground connector prong of a male plug having three prongs, a pair of current carrying prongs and a ground connector prong.

6. The portable hand dryer of claim 1 wherein the at least two prongs of the male plug are rotatable between (i) a first plug position wherein the at least two prongs project outwardly from the rear wall of the housing, and (ii) a second plug position wherein the at least two prongs do not project outwardly from the rear wall of the housing, and wherein the distal prong is rotatable between (i) a first distal prong position wherein the distal prong projects outwardly from the rear wall of the housing, and (ii) a second distal prong position wherein the distal prong does not project outwardly from the rear wall of the housing.

7. The portable hand dryer of claim 1 further comprising a spacer disposed on the rear wall to separate the rear wall from a structure wall when the portable hand dryer is disposed on the structure wall.

8. The portable hand dryer of claim 1 further comprising an on/off switch.

9. The portable hand dryer of claim 1 wherein the housing further comprises at least one standard female electrical power receptacle electrically connected to the male plug.

10. A portable hand dryer comprising:

(a) a housing having an upper end, a lower end, a rear wall, an air inlet opening disposed in the rear wall and a downwardly directed air outlet opening;

(b) an electric air blower disposed within the housing, the air blower having an air inlet side and an air discharge side; and

(c) air passageways disposed within the housing connecting the air inlet side of the air blower to the air inlet opening of the housing and connecting the air discharge side of the air blower to the air outlet opening of the housing;

wherein power for the electric air blower is provided via a male plug having at least two prongs, the male plug being attached to, and projecting outwardly from, the rear wall of the housing, the male plug being sized and dimensioned to plug into a standard household electrical power receptacle;

5 wherein the portable hand dryer weighs less than about 16 ounces so that the portable hand dryer is capable of being supported on a structure wall solely by frictional and mechanical forces existing between the portable hand dryer and one or more standard household electrical receptacles disposed in the structure wall; and

10 wherein a spacer is disposed on the rear wall to separate the rear wall from a structure wall when the portable hand dryer is disposed on the structure wall.

11. The portable hand dryer of claim 10 further comprising an electric heater disposed within the housing for heating air within the air passageways.

12. The portable hand dryer of claim 10 wherein the portable hand dryer comprises no air heater.

15 13. The portable hand dryer of claim 10 wherein the male plug has three prongs, a pair of current carrying prongs and a ground connector prong.

14. The portable hand dryer of claim 10 wherein the at least two prongs of the male plug are rotatable between (i) a first plug position wherein the at least two prongs project outwardly from the rear wall of the housing and (ii) a second plug position wherein the at least two prongs do not project outwardly from the rear wall of the housing.

20 15. The portable hand dryer of claim 10 further comprising an on/off switch.

16. A portable hand dryer comprising:

(a) a housing having an upper end, a lower end, a rear wall, an air inlet opening and a downwardly directed air outlet opening;

25 (b) an electric air blower disposed within the housing, the air blower having an air inlet side and an air discharge side; and

(c) air passageways disposed within the housing connecting the air inlet side of the air blower to the air inlet opening of the housing and connecting the air discharge side of the air blower to the air outlet opening of the housing;

wherein power for the electric air blower is provided via a male plug having at least two prongs, the male plug being attached to, and projecting outwardly from, the rear wall of the housing, the male plug being sized and dimensioned to plug into a standard household electrical power receptacle;

wherein the portable hand dryer weighs less than about 16 ounces so that the portable hand dryer is capable of being supported on a structure wall solely by the frictional and mechanical forces existing between the portable hand dryer and one or more standard household electrical power receptacles; and

wherein the at least two prongs of the male plug are rotatable between (i) a first plug position wherein the at least two prongs project outwardly from the rear wall of the housing, and (ii) a second plug position wherein the at least two prongs do not project outwardly from the rear wall of the housing.

17. The portable hand dryer of claim 16 further comprising an electric heater disposed within the housing for heating air within the air passageways.

18. The portable hand dryer of claim 16 wherein the portable hand dryer comprises no air heater.

19. The portable hand dryer of claim 16 wherein the male plug has three prongs, a pair of current carrying prongs and a ground connector prong.

20. The portable hand dryer of claim 16 further comprising an on/off switch.